AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 are being amended, and new claims 4-6 are being added. All pending claims are reproduced below, along with their status.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a therapeutic element using a plurality of radioactive seed elements, each of which has a hollow bore extending through the seed element between two longitudinal ends of the seed element, the method comprising:

~~using radioactive seed elements being tubular in shape with a hollow bore;~~

inserting an elongate member ~~into said~~ through the hollow bore of ~~said~~ each of the radioactive seed elements so that portions of the elongate member extend from the two ends of each seed element; and

heating said elongate member to cause the elongate member to expand, to thereby capture said radioactive seed elements at intervals.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for making a therapeutic element ~~including the steps of~~ using a plurality of radioactive seed elements, each of which has a hollow bore extending through the seed element, the method comprising:

~~using radioactive seed elements that are tubular in shape with a hollow bore;~~

arranging the plurality of radioactive seed elements end-to-end with desired spacings between adjacent radioactive seed elements;

flowing a material through the bores and between the radioactive seed elements without substantially encapsulating the radioactive seed elements; and

~~to assemble the radioactive seed elements together at desired intervals; and~~

allowing the material to cool, to thereby assemble the radioactive seed elements together at intervals.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for making a therapeutic element using a plurality of radioactive seed elements, each of which has a hollow bore extending through the seed element between two longitudinal ends of the seed element, the method comprising:

~~using radioactive seed elements being tubular in shape with a hollow bore;~~

inserting an elongate member ~~into said~~ through the hollow bore of ~~said~~ each of the radioactive seed elements so that portions of the elongate member extend from the two ends of each seed element; and

crimping portions of said elongate member that are adjacent the two ends of each of the seeds so that the crimped portions do not fit through the hollow bores of the seed elements, to thereby capture said radioactive seed elements at intervals~~, wherein at least some of the intervals can be independently set to a desired length~~.

4. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the intervals can be independently set to a desired length.

5. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein at least some of the intervals can be independently set to a desired length.

6. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein at least some of the intervals can be independently set to a desired length.